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5. The system of Claim 4 wherein sound dictionary file includes predetermined digital control codes for each word and the home computer includes means for constructing the array from the digital control codes in the dictionary file.

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6. The system of Claim 5 wherein the movable portion includes a mouth and the digital control codes stored in the dictionary represent movement of the mouth to simulate speaking.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein the figure includes a second movable portion, and the digital control codes stored for each word in the dictionary includes a second set of digital control codes for indicating movement of the second movable portion in synchronization with the word.

Sub. a2> 8. The system of Claim 5 wherein the means for deriving the array of binary digital codes includes means for identifying whether a letter in a word of text is a vowel and for assigning to each letter in each word in the text file a binary digital code indicating whether the mouth is to be open or closed.

9. The system of Claim 1 wherein the sound subsystem further includes means for recording spoken words and the computer includes means for recognizing the spoken words.

10. The system of Claim 9 wherein,
the means for recognizing the spoken words generates a text file,
the multimedia home computer further includes means for deriving the array of binary digital codes from the text file, and
the sound card includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing a sound signal representing the spoken words in the text file from the text file.

11. The system of Claim 1 wherein the toy includes a second actuator for moving a second, articulating member, and the digital control code array includes a second dimension for storing digital control codes for the second actuator.

12. The system of Claim 1 wherein the computer includes a monitor and means for displaying animation on the monitor in coordination with talking of the toy.

13. The system of Claim 1 wherein the means for transmitting includes a cable having on one end a first plug for connecting with a first electronic circuit forming part of the sound subsystem and a second plug for connecting with a second electronic circuit forming the input/output port, and connecting at the opposite end with the toy.

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14. An animated talking toy system comprising:

a toy figure having a body and a moveable mouth;

a loudspeaker situated within the body;

an actuator having only two-phases for moving the mouth in first direction in

response to receiving a first binary digital data signal representing a first predefined binary value and in second direction in response to receiving a second binary digital data signal representing a second binary value;

means for transmitting a sound signal to the loudspeaker and the first and second binary digital data signals to the actuator; and

a multimedia home computer including,

a sound card for generating a sound signal representing spoken words for transmission to the loudspeaker over the means for transmitting,

memory for storing an array of binary digital control codes representing movement of the actuator for articulation of the mouth to simulate speaking,

a data interface for generating based on the array a sequence of first and second binary digital data signals for transmission to the actuator over the means for transmitting, and

means for causing sequential transmission of the first and second binary digital data signals according to a predetermined synchronization with transmission of the sound signal by the sound subsystem.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the actuator includes a switch operable by the binary digital data signal for switching current to a solenoid for causing movement of an element in response thereto for moving the mouth.

16. The system of Claim 15 wherein the element of the solenoid is coupled by a string to a pivoting portion of the mouth for applying torque to rotate the pivoting portion in a first direction against a biasing force applied by a spring to the pivoting portion in an opposite direction.

17. The system of Claim 14 wherein the multimedia home computer further includes means for deriving the array of binary digital codes from a text file and the sound card includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing a sound signal representing the spoken words in the text file from the text file.

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18. The system of Claim 14 further including a sound dictionary file stored on the computer and wherein the speech synthesizer looks up a sound signal for the textual words in the sound dictionary.

19. The system of Claim 18 wherein sound dictionary file includes predetermined digital control codes and the home computer includes means for creating the array of digital control codes.

20. The system of Claim 14 wherein the sound subsystem further includes means for recording spoken words and the computer includes means for recognizing the spoken words.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein,
the means for recognizing the spoken words generates a text file,
the multimedia home computer further includes means for deriving the array of binary digital codes from the text file, and
the sound card includes a speech synthesizer for synthesizing a sound signal representing the spoken words in the text file from the text file.

22. The system of Claim 14 wherein the toy includes a second actuator for moving a second, articulating member, and the digital control code array includes a second dimension for storing digital control codes for the second actuator.

23. The system of Claim 14 wherein the computer includes a monitor and means for displaying animation on the monitor in coordination with animation of the toy.

24. The system of Claim 14 wherein the means for transmitting includes a cable having on one end a first plug for connecting with a first electronic circuit forming part of the sound subsystem and a second plug for connecting with a second electronic circuit forming the input/output port.

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25. An animated talking toy figure comprising:

a small figure with an appearance simulating that of a living animal, being or creature, the figure including a body and a moveable mouth;

a loudspeaker situated within the body;

an actuator situated inside the figure having only two-phases for moving the mouth in first direction in response to receiving a first binary digital data signal representing a first binary data value and in the other direction in response to receiving a second data signal representing a second binary data value; and

an elongated cable extending from toy for receiving an audio signal for the loudspeaker and a binary digital control signal to be used as a logic input for a switch for connecting power to drive the actuator.

26. The animated talking toy figure of Claim 25 wherein the actuator further comprises a solenoid and the switch switches current to the solenoid for movement of an element.

27. The system of Claim 25 wherein the element of the solenoid is coupled by a string to a pivoting portion of the mouth for applying torque to rotate the pivoting portion in a first direction and wherein the actuator further includes a spring for applying a biasing force to the pivoting portion in an opposite direction to the force applied by the string.

28. The system of Claim 25 wherein the figure further includes a moving arm and a second actuator having only two-phases for moving the arm, the actuator moving the arm in first direction in response to receiving a third binary digital data signal representing of the first binary value and in the an opposite direction in response to receiving the fourth binary digital representing the second binary value.

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34. The storage media of Claim 33 wherein the method further includes building the array from the text file by reading from the dictionary, for each word in the text file, a predefined sequence of binary digital values and storing the sequence in the array.